



NAVAJO TRIBAL UTILITY AUTHORITY

An Enterprise of the Navajo Nation Since 1959

For Immediate Release

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NTUA HAULING WATER TO IMPACTED AREA

Fort Defiance, AZ. – As a precaution, the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) has taken two wells in Montezuma Creek, Utah off-line because of close proximity to the San Juan River. In addition, the Mexican Hat, Utah water treatment plant is shut down until further notice.

According to NTUA Deputy General Manager Rex Kontz, these proactive measures were taken to alleviate regional concern regarding the water waste spill from the suspended Gold King Mine in southwest Colorado.

“Once we received notification of the spill, we created a response plan,” said Kontz. “We are taking care of our water system for customers who receive a NTUA water bill. If you receive a NTUA water bill, be advised that your water is okay.”

NTUA shut down the water treatment facility in Mexican Hat, Utah because it treated water pulled San Juan River. That facility provides water service to the community of Halchita, Utah. It will remain shut down until further notice. The NTUA is refilling the community water tanks in Montezuma Creek and Halchita in order to keep them in operation. The water is being hauled in from regional water ground water wells. Customers are asked to minimize water use as the water tanks will be routinely refilled.

NTUA would also like communities far south of Shiprock to understand that they are not connected to the San Juan River. The water wells in Sanostee, Two Grey Hills, Sheepsprings, and south of Shiprock are deep ground water wells.

Under the U.S. Safe Drinking Water Act, NTUA issues annual reports regarding each water system. Individuals can review the 2014 Water Reports on the NTUA website, www.ntua.com. These reports are called Consumer Confidence Reports.

Meanwhile, NTUA remains part of the regional response team that is working on the spill issue.

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